

Salford Priors Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Baptist Hall, Dunnington, on Wednesday 14th. October 2009 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors, KA James (Chairman), AW Wolfe, RM Pane and DC Penn.

Also in attendance: County Councillor P Barnes, MJ.Philpott, Clerk, and eight members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Council considered and agreed apologies for absence from Cllrs. JR Stedman, RJA Francis and M Myers, all due to illness, and from District Councillors BW Slaughter and D Pemberton due to attending other council business meetings.

2. Declarations of Office and Disclosure of Interests

2.1 Register of Interests: Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests up to date.

2.2 Declaration of Interests: Members were reminded that they were required to declare and disclose any personal or prejudicial interests in items on the agenda. Councillors with a prejudicial interest were required to leave the room for the relevant agenda item.

No declarations were made.

3. Open Forum

3.1 Have your say: No under 18's were present.

3.2 Public Participation: Jill Houghton and Penny Berry spoke on behalf of residents seeking to save the fire station at Bidford. Penny said that they were independent of Bidford PC and were anxious to gain support from Salford Priors. She mentioned the risks to vulnerable people at the nursing homes, the bungalows for elderly residents, and also the many thatched cottages in the parish. Jill read out a letter from MP John Maples in which he had requested a great amount of factual information from the Fire Service. She said that the Fire Service claimed that a vehicle could travel to Bidford from Alcester in 5min. 40sec. and this seemed unbelievable. Cllr. Barnes said there was to be an emergency motion at the District Council and he hoped that Stratford DC would fight for Bidford fire station to remain open. He said that the progress of the review through the County Council could result in the review being delayed by at least a year. The Chairman said that the Parish Council would continue to discuss the issues arising from the review at their November meeting as new information emerged such as the risk consultant's report which identified financial savings at the cost of greater risk to the communities. He referred to the Clerk's draft response and said this was a living document that would be refined as more facts emerged. He urged people to attend the special Community Forum meeting on 10th. November.

It was reported that the idea of a resident's group to speak alongside the Parish Council was in course of being developed.

3.3 Ward Members' Reports Cllr. Barnes said that the policy of charging for use of IT facilities at libraries had reduced usage by 60 per cent. In respect of speeding in Evesham Road he reported that speed strips were to be laid down shortly.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th. September 2009 at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes - Clerk's report for consideration by Council**5.1 Football club.**

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The Clerk reported that following the request made at the previous meeting it was arranged for one of the group to visit the Parish Office. No one turned up and there had been no subsequent contact with any members of the group. However, an e-mail had been received from a Tom Ball regarding an under 16 team. The Chairman and Cllr Francis with the Clerk had met Tom and his father prior to the Parish Council meeting and agreed a way ahead in accordance with the ideas expressed at the previous meeting.

5.2 Footpath between Abbots Salford and County Boundary, Harvington.

The Clerk reported that he had written again to WCC and received a reply stating that the footpath had been inspected and an instruction issued to their contractors in August. WCC were chasing up their contractors and expected the work to be carried out shortly.

5.3 Bins on Playing Field.

The Clerk reported that the bin by the car park had also now been broken. The original bins were supplied by Swintex Ltd. from Bury, Manchester and new covers were available at a cost of £89.25. Council agreed that an order for two covers should be placed.

5.4 Footpath between School Avenue and Ridsdale Close.

The Clerk reported that the hedge has been cut by the owners of No. 12 and that he had written to the owners of the fence and had also spoken to them regarding their intentions. Cost was an issue in the present financial climate and the Clerk suggested that the Parish Council might consider removing the chain link fence. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for removing the fence.

5.5 Meeting with School Council.

A reply was still awaited.

5.6 Speed Limits.

The Clerk reported that representations had been received from Ross Tiffin and Mr & Mrs Seabourne regarding speeding in Evesham Road. He said that he had spoken to Richard Elbourne regarding the build out and the criticisms of several individuals regarding its location. The Clerk said that Mr Elbourne was keen to hear the comments and it was felt that a site meeting would be the best way of resolving matters. Cllr. Wolfe said that he had observed that vehicles were travelling very fast past his property in Evesham Road and also said that two 30mph signs were obscured by an overgrown hedge. The Chairman said he had received an e-mail from Mr Young regarding HGVs on Station Road. The Clerk reported that the Speed Aware team had also been contacted and did carry out their speed tests at the locations advised by the Parish Council. They had also agreed to move the SID post to near Salford Hall Hotel and to include it in their rota.

Council agreed that the Clerk should meet Mr Elbourne with Cllrs. Wolfe and Myers and any interested residents. Council also asked the Clerk to investigate the cost of speed indication devices with a view to the Council providing these from its own funds.

5.7 Parish Community Emergency Plan.

The Clerk reported that copies of the new plan had been circulated to all Councillors and it had been sent to the Emergency Planning Officer at Warwickshire County Council. Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk of any changes and an addendum sheet would be circulated from time to time for Councillors to amend their personal copies. Councillors were asked to keep their copies of the plan readily available. The Chairman noted that the details for the Clerk at Alcester were incorrect.

5.8 Dates for Participatory Budgeting meeting.

The Clerk circulated details of the availability of Tops and the Memorial Hall for November and also a suggested agenda for the meeting. Council agreed to set the meeting for Wednesday 2nd. December at the Memorial Hall. The Chairman agreed the agenda proposed by the Clerk.

5.9 Housing Provision.

The Clerk reported that Phil Ward of WRCC had been asked to pursue sites 2 and 7 with Highways as agreed. The Chairman said that a public meeting would be held when full information was available.

5.10 HMRC, amended penalty determination.

The Clerk reported that a formal letter cancelling any penalty payment for late submission of the annual report had now been received.

6. Main Items**6.1 Consultation on Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service review.**

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had produced a draft response to the consultation and asked all councillors to read it and bring any comments to the Clerk at the training session on 21.10.09. He said that this response would be further developed as more information was forthcoming and would be finalised following the Community Forum meeting on 10th. November. The Chairman reported that a consultant's report had now been released by the Fire Service following a Freedom of Information request and this indicated that risks would increase but there would be financial savings. The Chairman also reported on actual call-out figures for the Bidford station amounting to 286 events (18 in Parish of Salford Priors) during 2008 and 177 (16 in Parish of Salford Priors) to date in 2009. It was noted that a large number of events were automatic false alarms but the proposed response by the Fire Service to ignore these was not considered appropriate.

6.2 Half Year Financial review.

The Clerk had circulated a forecast to the end of the year for consideration by the Council. As reported at the meeting on 15.07.09 there had been significant changes to the budget since it was agreed at the beginning of the year. Additional income had been received, particularly the grant for the solar lights, and extra expenditure had been incurred, particularly on drainage works and on consultants' reports regarding Berry Coppice. Several potential additional expenditure items were identified, priorities were agreed, and an expenditure programme was agreed at the July meeting. This programme was in course of being implemented. The original budget had been based on a forecast deficit of £3,625. The forecast deficit was £1,440. This resulted in an end of year balance of £23,446, well within the suggested limit of £20,000 identified and agreed by Council at the July meeting. Council accepted the half year financial review. Council agreed the bank reconciliation provided by the Clerk.

6.3 Flower displays in Dunnington.

The chairman invited residents to consider where two new planters should be placed in Dunnington. It was agreed that these should be located at the crossroads with the B4088 and by the post box outside the school.

7. Environment - Amenity, Highways, Allotments, and TOPS**7.1 Playing Field weekly safety reports.**

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Francis had provided reports dated 21.09.09, 28.09.09, 5.10.09 and 12.10.09. The defects recorded were a faulty spring on the play area gate, loss of surfacing under the swings, and problems with the litter bins. The Clerk said that repairs to the play area should be co-ordinated with the independent inspection that was due shortly. The Chairman had earlier reported that he had encountered the police patrolling the Playing Field late one evening.

7.2 Report on expenditure items approved at previous meeting.

The Clerk reported that all items had been delivered and proposed that the Chairman and Cllr. Stedman should accompany him to view the proposed locations for the new bins and planters. This was agreed.

7.3 New street lighting inventory.

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The Clerk reported that a new Unmetered Supply Certificate had been issued covering the period to 30.06.10 and that the inventory had now been updated. He also reported that Central Networks had been provided with information regarding the un-adopted lights on Priors Grange.

7.4 Physical testing of street lights.

The Clerk had circulated a quotation received from PD Long of £19 per column for structural testing at high and low level. For 69 lights this would amount to £1311. Cllr. James proposed, Cllr. Wolfe seconded and it was agreed that this work should be carried out.

7.5 Miscellaneous works at TOPs.

The Clerk reported that he had placed an order with M Vondrak as suggested by the TOPs Management Committee, for minor tidying-up works to be done around TOPs. The Chairman reported that he had inspected the new windows and felt local supplier Centurian had done a very good job. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for the supply and fitting of new frames and doors at the front and back of TOPs. Council agreed that PD Long be asked to re-route two cables exposed as a result of the new windows being fitted. Council noted that the condition of the shiplap boarding was causing concern at the rear of the building.

8. Communications

8.1 Newsletter

Cllr. Wolfe reported that the Newsletter was to be produced during the following two weeks. In respect of the path opposite the Post Office, Council agreed that the plan outlined in Cllr. Myer's report should be promoted.

8.2 Website,

Cllr. Wolfe reported that he and the Clerk had met Richard Dare and he felt that reasonable progress was being made on the development of the site.

8.3 E-mail newsletter

Nothing to report.

9. Rights of Way

9.1 Report from P3 Co-ordinator.

Nothing to report.

9.2 Report by Cllr. Myers on meetings with landowners

Cllr. Myers had circulated a report describing her meetings with landowners. Sandfields had agreed to provide new dog waste bins by their packing station and also on New Inn Lane that they would empty. They had also indicated that they would allow people to walk the path opposite the Post Office so long as walkers did not allow their dogs to foul crops and kept them on a lead. She reported that the gate opposite the Post office had been locked as a condition of Sandfields insurance in view of considerable losses of crops and equipment through theft. Cllr. Myers also reported that Alamo had surfaced a length of AL17 and had also agreed to provide a further two dog bins. Finally, Cllr. Myers reported on a meeting with the Polacci Brothers who were to improve further stretches of AL17. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Myers for all her efforts. The Clerk was asked to investigate the provision of dog waste bag dispensers.

10. Planning general

10.1 SDC electronic notification of planning decisions.

Council noted that planning decision notices would only be sent electronically to the Clerk in future.

10.2 Linking the Planning Portal to our website.

The Chairman drew Council's attention to the information provided by the Government on the Planning Portal. Council agreed that appropriate links needed to be provided on the web site together with a suitable explanation.

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10.3 SDC response to phone box closures.

Council agreed that the SDC response did not change the Council's previously agreed position.

10.4 Update regarding Marsh Farm extension. Oral report by Clerk.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Sue Broomhead, planning officer at Warwickshire County Council, and had been informed that the planning application would probably be determined at their December meeting. A 3 month holding objection had been raised by the Highways Agency whilst the stability of the A46 was checked and queries had also been raised by the Environment Agency. The officer commented that only 18 letters had been received. She had also reported that under current planning legislation the progress of restoration of the existing site could not be taken into account. In respect of arguments about the current consultation on the minerals core strategy these were still being considered.

10.5 West Midlands Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision, Panel report.

The Chairman had circulated a report of the Regional Panel's proposals in respect of future housing provision in the surrounding districts. All their proposals meant significant increase to previous allocations but these would be in the main rural areas such as Bidford and would not include Salford Priors. The Panel's report on the eco-town proposal at Middle Quinton was non-committal. In respect of growth for Redditch the Panel's proposal was that this should all be located in Bromsgrove.

11. New Planning Applications for Council's consideration

- 11.1 09/01887/TREE – Proposed G1 group of cypress: Fell; at 1 Meadow View, Evesham Road, Salford Priors, Evesham, Worcestershire for Mr G Beamish.

Council agreed to make no representations subject to no adverse comments from the District Council Tree officer.

12. Planning Decisions

- 12.1 None to report.

13. Staffing**13.1 Notification of national salary settlement.**

The Clerk reported that an increase of 1 per cent had been awarded on LC1 Scale dated from 1.04.09.

14. Matters raised by Councillors**14.1 Cllr. KA James, Poppy Appeal donation and purchase of Poppy Wreath.**

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that Council should make a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion, Salford Priors, and also that a poppy wreath should be purchased on behalf of the Council from the Chairman's allowance.

15. Consideration of Correspondence Received**15.1 MH Spriggs, Scouts annual firework display.**

Council agreed to the request to hold a fireworks display on the Playing Field subject to previously agreed conditions.

15.2 John Alexander-Head, Domestic Energy Efficiency.

Council considered that further information on costs to householders was required and agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should meet with Mr Alexander-Head and report back.

15.3 WALC, September Newsletter, ADH\84.

Council noted the information provided. The Clerk was asked to inform the Over 60s and the TOPs Management Committee regarding the BT Laptop and Broadband offer.

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15.4 LM Gullachsen, Parking on School Road and School Avenue.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Primary School and Mrs Gullachsen suggesting that this issue could be raised at a Community Forum meeting and also to suggest use of the Playing Field car park.

15.5 Warwickshire Rural Community Council AGM.

Council noted the date of the AGM.

15.6 Warwickshire CC, Winter Maintenance in Warwickshire 2009/10.

Council noted that no changes were proposed and that this was contrary to a Community Forum recommendation that gritting should be carried out to the centre of communities. The Clerk was instructed to write to WCC accordingly.

15.7 Change in rates valuation for TOPs.

Council noted the increase in the unit business rate from £15 per sq.m. to £17.5 per sq.m..

16. To Table

No items were tabled.

17. Finance**17.1 To consider and approve the payments and transfers listed in Appendix A.**

Council noted the income transactions in Appendix A Item 20.1

Council considered the expenditure transactions listed in Appendix A Item 20.2. Authorisation for payment was proposed by Cllr. Wolfe, seconded by Cllr. Penn, and carried. Cheques were signed by Cllrs. James and Wolfe.

Council considered the Clerk's proposal to transfer £10,500 from No.1 account to the Community account. Authorisation for transfer of funds was proposed by Cllr. Wolfe, seconded by Cllr. Penn, and carried.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 18th. November at 7.30pm in The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors.

Councillors were also reminded of the Training Session on the Power of Well Being taking place on Wednesday 21st. October in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors at 7.30pm. It was essential that all Councillors attended

19. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 9.18pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

APPENDIX A**20. Finance****20.1 Income transactions for approval**

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
		20500.00	0.00	20500.00	SDC, Precept, final payment
Total		£20500.00	£0.00	£20500.00	

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20.2 Expenditure transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8466	Dd	18.58	2.42	16.16	Plusnet, Office Broadband
8467	102181	99.23	4.73	94.50	Npower, TOPs electricity
8468	102182	70.84	8.06	62.78	BT, Office Phone
8469	102183	180.00	0.00	180.00	SPATs, grant
8470	102184	37.44	0.00	37.44	M J Philpott, Clerk's expenses
8471	102185	457.36	59.66	397.70	PPI Ltd., Paint railings Abbots Salford
8472	102186	2222.20	289.85	1932.35	GBD(Evesham) Ltd. Mowing contract
8473	102187	103.50	13.50	90.00	Limebridge Rural Services, Flower display contract
8474	102188	200.00	0.00	200.00	Warwickshire CC, Allotment rent
8475	102189	468.05	61.05	407.00	Broxap Ltd. Dog waste bins
8476	102190	125.63	16.39	109.24	Staples, ink cartridges
8477	102191	105.00	0.00	105.00	SLCC Subscription
8478	102192	644.04	0.00	644.04	MJ Philpott, Clerk's salary October
8479	102193	41.95	5.47	36.48	Digital Copier Systems
8480	102194	4110.10	536.10	3574.00	Centurian, TOPs windows
8481	102195	760.59	99.22	661.37	Npower, street lighting
8482	102196	30.00	0.00	30.00	Dunnington Baptist Church
8483	102197	819.00	0.00	819.00	Salford Priors Memorial Hall
Total		£9674.51	£1096.45	£8578.06	

20.3. Transfers

Proposal to transfer £10,500 from No.1 account to Community account.

20.4 Account Balances at 6.10.09

Community a/c	£1,157.71
No.1 a/c	£43,557.15
No.3 a/c	£163.69